

The Year's Top Gear

Editors name best products of 2013.

ICOM M92

In the July 2013 issue, testers evaluated seven handheld VHF radios from Standard Horizon, Icom, and Midland. The test field faced a series of bench tests, including verifying waterproof ratings and measuring transmitter power output, frequency accuracy and stability, receiver sensitivity, and battery life. Testers also examined features, ergonomics, ease of use, and displays.

Although it was the most expensive unit in the test group (\$299), the Icom M92D earned our Editors' Choice pick for sailors who want all the bells and whistles or are seeking a handheld to use as their primary VHF. Icom bills the M92D as the world's first active noise-canceling handheld with Class D DSC

and GPS. Class D radios have two separate receivers, one for voice communications and the second for continuously monitoring channel 70 for any DSC calls.

Equipped with a 48-channel internal GPS and software features like a digital compass, waypoint database, and navigation functions, the M92D can serve as a back-up navigation device, in a pinch. It can also mark and navigate to that all-important MOB waypoint, the only radio in our group able to do so. Testers found the menu system to be straightforward and intuitive.

In water, the M92D floats in a face-up position and its entire keypad flashes as it produces an audible "beep."

The M92D gives users the ability to make an emergency call with both posi-

tion and nature of distress—what more could you ask a handheld radio to do?



Icom M92D